

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-05
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R 252212Z AUG 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 203696

FOR AMBASSADOR HAYNES

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PINS, AG, WA

SUBJECT: BACKGROUND ON NAMIBIA

REFS: A)LAGOS 9522 (NOTAL); B)LAGOS 9675; C)USUN 2619

1. REPRODUCED BELOW, FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND SUBSEQUENT
DISCUSSION WITH MRS. APPOLLUS, IS BACKGROUND INFORMATION
ON CURRENT STATUS OF NAMIBIA TALKS. CONTACT GROUP HAS
HELD DISCUSSIONS WITH SWAPO IN NEW YORK AND HAS KEPT
FRONT LINE STATES INFORMED OF PROGRESS. WE ARE REPEATING
TELEGRAM (REF C) WITH TALKING POINTS USED FOR BRIEFING
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FRONT-LINE STATES TO YOU FOR YOUR BACKGROUND INFORMATION,
BUT WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE THAT YOU NOT GO
INTO THIS DEGREE OF DETAIL WITH MRS. APPOLLUS, WHO
SHOULD BE KEPT UP TO DATE BY SWAPO ITSELF.

2. WE BELIEVE EXPLORATORY EFFORTS OF THE CONTACT
GROUP HAVE MADE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS TOWARD A SOLUTION

IN NAMIBIA IN KEEPING WITH SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION
385. SOUTH AFRICA HAS MADE CERTAIN CONCESSIONS,
INCLUDING ABANDONMENT OF ITS PROPOSED ETHNICALLY-BASED
CONSTITUTION FOR NAMIBIA AND APPOINTMENT INSTEAD OF A
SINGLE ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL; RELEASE OF NAMIBIAN
POLITICAL PRISONERS WITH IMPARTIAL PANEL TO DETERMINE

WHO IS OR IS NOT A POLITICAL PRISONER; RETURN OF ALL
NAMIBIAN EXILES; PHASED WITHDRAWAL OF SOUTH AFRICAN
FORCES; AND FREE ELECTIONS TO BE HELD IN PRESENCE OF
A UN SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE WHO MUST BE SATISFIED AT
ALL STAGES AS TO FAIRNESS OF THE POLITICAL PROCESS.
THESE CONCESSIONS DO NOT FULLY MEET TERMS OF RESOLUTION
385 OR DEMANDS OF SWAPO. QUESTION OF PHASED WITHDRAWAL
OF SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES IS PROVING PARTICULARLY
DIFFICULT AND SEVERAL OTHER THORNY ISSUES REMAIN TO BE
NEGOTIATED. AT AUGUST 8-11 TALKS WITH CONTACT GROUP
IN NEW YORK, SWAPO SHOWED ITSELF FLEXIBLE IN SOME AREAS
AND LESS SO IN OTHERS, BUT AGREEMENT WAS REACHED THAT
NEGOTIATIONS HOLD POSSIBILITIES FOR ACCEPTABLE
RESOLUTION OF NAMIBIA QUESTION, ALTHOUGH FURTHER
DISCUSSIONS WILL BE NECESSARY. TIME HAS COME FOR UN
TO BEGIN TO PLAY A CENTRAL ROLE IN NAMIBIAN INDEPENDENCE
PROCESS AND WALDHEIM HAS AGREED TO BEGIN PRELIMINARY
PLANNING ESSENTIAL TO SUCCESSFUL UN INVOLVEMENT. IF
PARTIES CAN REACH AGREEMENT, AND THIS IS BY NO MEANS
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ASSURED, A SECURITY COUNCIL MANDATE WILL BE NECESSARY
BEFORE UN ACTIVITIES COULD BEGIN IN NAMIBIA.

3. DEPARTMENT WOULD BE INTERESTED IN MRS. APPOLLUS'
COMMENTS ON NAMIBIAN ISSUES IN LIGHT OF DISCUSSIONS
AT LAGOS CONFERENCE. WE WOULD ALSO BE INTERESTED IN
EXTENT TO WHICH SWAPO LEADERSHIP HAS KEPT MRS. APPOLLUS
INFORMED OF DISCUSSIONS WITH CONTACT GROUP.

CHRISTOPHER

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